

are ripe for State government; then to give them that government; and admit them to equality with their fathers. That is law, and has been so admitted since the first ordinance, in 1781.

The States in Congress are the guardians of the territories, and are bound to exercise that guardianship; and cannot abdicate it without a breach of trust and a dereliction of duty. Why, sir, the territory itself is the property of the States, and they do with it what they please—permit it to be settled or not as they please; cut it up by lines, as they please; sell, or give it away as they please; choose white people from it, as they please. This has been always the case. There is a proclamation now extant of the old Congress, confederating, describing the lands of the Northwest territory as "disorderly persons;" and ordering them to be drawn off by the military.

I remember many such military expulsions in the early settlement of the western country, often executed with severity; burning houses, cutting up corn, destroying fences, and driving of people at the point of the bayonet, and under the edge of the sabre. As late as 1835-36, when the extension of the Indian title to the Platte country in Missouri (similar orders) were given to the then Colonel of dragons commanding out that frontier, the new Senator in Congress, Henry Dodge, to expel the people from that purchase; orders which he executed in gentleness and mercy, going alone, explaining his business, and requesting them to go away; which they did, like good and orderly people; and when he was gone, came back, like a flock of sheep, to the place where they had been driven off.

Not only settled but organized territory, has been so treated by the federal government, and worse; the people driven off, and their homes given away. This happened in Arkansas in 1828, when twelve thousand square miles of her organized territory was given to the Cherokee, and the people driven away. Why, sir, this very line of 36° 30', with all the territory on one side of it, and two degrees on the other side, were given away to the King of Spain. This has been the seventy years' practice of the government—to treat the territories as property, and the people as uninvited guests, to be entertained or turned out as the owner of the house chooses. Fine sovereigns these! chased off by the military, and their homes given to the Indians or Spaniards. The whole life of this country is a novel of despotism. Denied freedom of elections; denied freedom of voting; denied choice of their own laws; denied the right of fixing the qualification of voters; subjected to a foreign supervision; and controllable by the federal government, which they have no hand in electing; and only allowed to admit and not to reject slavery. Their sovereignty only extends to the subject of slavery, and only to one side of that, admitting slavery, and the other half of the power being held to be denied by the constitution which is extended over them, and which (according to the reading supporters of this bill) forbids any law to be made which will prevent any citizen from going there with his slaves. This is squatter sovereignty, nonintervention, and no power to legislate in territories upon slavery. And this is called a principle—the principle of non-intervention—letting people alone, to settle the question of slavery for themselves. How settle it! That can only be done in an organic act, and they have no such act, nor can have one till they make a constitution for the State government. All the rest is legislation, which settles nothing, and produces contention at every election. Sir, this principle of non-intervention is but a principle of contention—a bone given to the people to quarrel and fight over at every election, and at every meeting of the legislature, until they become a State government. Then, and then only, can they settle the question.—For seventy years—since the year 1781, when the organizing mind of Jefferson drew the first territorial ordinance—we had a uniform method of providing for the government of territories, in full equality with the other States. This is the way these territories have been governed for several years; and am for adhering to it.

THE PRETEXT OF QUIETING THE SLAVERY QUESTION.

And now, what is the excuse for all this disturbance of the country? Is this breaking up of ancient compromise; arraying one half of the Union against the other, and destroying the temper and business of Congress? What is the excuse for all this turmoil and mischief? We are told it is to keep the question of slavery out of Congress! Great God! It was out of Congress! Completely, entirely and forever out of Congress, unless Congress decided it. In breaking down the sacred laws which were settled, and done with, who shall not an inch square of territory in the Union which could be raised without a breach of a compromise. The ordinance of '39 settled it in all the remaining part of the northwest territory beyond Wisconsin; the compromise line of 36° 30', settled it in all country north and west of Missouri; the British line, and up to the rocky mountains, the organic act of Oregon, made by the people and sanctioned by Congress, settled it in all that region; the acts for the government of Utah and New Mexico settled it in those two territories; the compact with Texas, determining the number of slave States to be formed out of that State, settled it there; and California settled it for herself. Now, what was there an inch of territory within the United States on which the question could be raised? Nowhere! Not an inch! The question was settled everywhere not merely by law, but by fact. The work was done and there was no way to get at the question but by undoing the work! No way for Congress to get the question in, for the purpose of keeping it out, but to break down compromises which kept it out.

HOW CAN IT BENEFIT THE SLAVE STATE?

What advantage do the slave States expect from this bill? Certainly they expect the extension of slave power and slave population. That may prove a fallacious expectation. The question of slavery in these territories, if thrown open to territorial action, will be a question of numbers—a question of the majority for or against slavery; and what chance would the slaveholders have in such a contest? No chance at all. The slave emigrants will be outnumbered, and compelled to play at most

The Union and Journal.

FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 12, '54.

MR. BENTON'S SPEECH.

We publish today, the speech of the only man in Congress who came into public life about the time of the adoption of the Missouri compromise. It is important not only on account of the distinguished source from which it comes, but also from the crushing weight which it makes of the flimsy and specious arguments of Douglass, Cass & Co., and the ridicule and contempt which it pours upon the poor, paltry demagoguery of such sneaks as McDonald.

Mr. Benton was a democrat when our limber tongued representative was learning to lip, in dirty accents, Hartford Conventionism, niggerism and the other cant, which form the warp and weft of his speeches. There are no indecent appeals in this speech to the cant of politicians, but everywhere square work,—a manful denunciation of the Nebraska villany and its abettors. When the speech first reached us, we thought of contenting ourselves with publishing a brief synopsis. We did not see that we could find room for it, but on reflection concluded to publish the whole. Ours, probably, is the only paper in the county which will publish it, and we have a large number of democratic subscribers who will welcome its appearance in our columns. Our whig friends we know will read it with satisfaction, and we trust that our democratic friends after reading it will send it on a mission among those who have been favored with McDonald's speech through the Democrat.

The probable passage of the Nebraska Bill.

It is quite apparent from the proceedings of the House of Representatives at Washington, on Monday and Tuesday, that there is great danger that the gigantic Nebraska swindle will succeed. The friends of this monstrous wrong ever hatched in the prolific brains of presidential aspirants, and slavery mongers, seem to have been successful in the preliminary stages of legislative action, by majorities sufficiently large to show the probability of the passage of the bill, at an early period. We have from the commencement, been apprehensive that the bill would be passed; and the solemn compact of 1820 be abrogated. We have seen the official organs of the administration promising, in the name of the powers that be, official protection to those who should dare to brave the known will of their constituents. Administration apianee and administration coersions have been busy since the verdicts passed by the people of New Hampshire, Connecticut and Rhode Island, and we may say, our State, and the conspirators have rallied from the effects of those staggering blows. We are told that enough members have changed sides to pass the bill, and it is probably true. A short-lived triumph apparently awaits the conspirators against the peace of the nation and the eternal principles of liberty; but it will be short-lived, if gained; a victory gained at the expense of the nation's faith, and by the breaking down of the barriers which guard the portals of freedom, will turn to dust and ashes. The bill passed, repealing the Missouri compromise, which has prevented the northward march of slavery for thirty years, and the repulsive current of slavery and freedom will meet with a force of opposition never before known. There will be no further talk of compromise—no listening to seductive appeals, to alay agitation, for the purpose of national harmony and brotherhood. The spirit of slavery, in its eagerness to grasp all, has forgotten compacts, and hereafter there will be no mercy shown it when the principles of freedom triumph, as they ultimately must. Freedom has not come from the free North.—Abolitionists have not sprung this measure upon the people—slavery discussion has not been asked into the Halls of Congress by northern constituency,—but it comes from the slaveholders themselves, when the country was quiet, when agitation was hushed, and the people were lulled into security, and reposing with perfect confidence in the thought that the slave questions were settled, then the slave propagandists came in with their bills to give the slave power additional power and strength—and to rob freedom of a portion of their long respected rights.

THE NEBRASKA BILL.

We give below a somewhat detailed report of the proceedings in the House, on Monday, which eventuated in the taking up of the Nebraska bill. It will be recollected that Mr. Richardson, of Illinois, a few days ago gave notice that he should take the first opportunity to get at the Nebraska bill, by moving to lay it all other bills.

The Speaker stated that the first business in order was calling the States for resolutions. Mr. Richardson, (dem.) of Illinois, moved the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, avowing his purpose, should be sustained by a majority, to lay aside all business on the calendar until the Nebraska Kansas bill should be reached.

Mr. Campbell, (free soil) of Ohio—Allowed me to propose a question.

Mr. Richardson. I have made the motion.

Mr. Campbell. I hope the gentleman from Illinois, having had the benefit of a statement, may be allowed to ask a question.

Mr. Clingham, (dem.) of N. C. I object to all irregular discussion.

Impatient cries of question, question;

which the Speaker essayed to allay, rapping with his hammer, and telling gentlemen to be quiet. Mr. Campbell again rose to ask a question. I want information relative to the proposed plan of action. (Loud cries of "No, no!" I wish to know if it is the intention of the gentleman to set aside or postpone the consideration of the Deficiency bill, which is a consideration of the very greatest importance. (Cries loud and long continued "Order, order.")

Mr. Cutting, (dem.) of N. Y. This matter had better be disposed of at once, without further delay about it.

Cries of "Question, question."

Mr. Wheeler, (dem.) of N. Y., asked consent to present a remonstrance of several hundred citizens, legal voters of New York, against the repeal of the Missouri compromise.

Mr. Hamilton, (dem.) of Md. objected, and cried of "Put it under the rules."

Mr. Wheeler. Perhaps the gentleman from Maryland would like to object to that also.

Mr. Wheeler presented it under the rules. The Speaker again interfered to suppress the prevalent confusion.

Mr. Stephens, (whig) of Ga., deeming this a matter of much importance, desired to have a full statement of the Nebraska bill, and to enable him to acquire his liberty, a tariff has been placed on his labor according to his convertible value or the price paid for him. This was ten cents per day on every one hundred dollars' value. Thus: a slave worth five hundred dollars, by paying his master fifty cents per day, or fifteen dollars per month, could apply the balance of his earnings to the accumulation of a fund for the purchase of his liberty.

To prevent this horrible catastrophe of emancipating the negroes, he proposes to allow filibustering from our shores, to allow "individual enterprise and liberality to furnish the men and material" for the purpose of aiding the slaveholders in their designs upon Cuba.

The resolve was referred to the committee on foreign relations. We should not be surprised at its passage. The whole business of the administration and its friends in Congress seems to be in pressing forward schemes to strengthen and propitiate the slave-holding interest. All useful legislation is set aside, and the whole time and attention of Congress seems to be given to projects brought forward by slave representatives to promote the permanency of the "patriarchal institution." The proposition of Mr. Silldell has not a redeeming trait about it. It suggests a mean, pitiful method of acquiring Cuba. If we are to have a fight about the acquisition of Cuba, let it be a national one, entered upon with a distinct understanding, that the nation is fighting for territorial acquisition, and to strengthen the slave-power, and not any individual affair of piracy and plunder, which is to be winked at by the government in the expectation that it will turn to the national advantage. Employing others to rob and steal, is meaner than to do it ourselves.

EDITORIAL CHANGES. The retirement of John S. Sayward, Esq. from the editorial management of the Bangor Whig & Courier leaves us the oldest whig editor in the State. We read with feelings almost of sadness the valedictory of our former contemporary. Fifteen years we have been journeying together on the same road of editorial duty, supporting the same principles, and striving together for the elevation of those principles of morality, and social progress, which are the sure foundations of individual and national progress. It is not for us to say what success we have met with, or whether the influence of our pen and life has been of a character to improve the moral and social condition of the communities in which we have labored and are yet laboring. But now that our brother has left us, and we have extended the parting hand, we may bear testimony to the ability and discretion with which he discharged the always responsible, and sometimes perplexing, duties of the station which he has occupied. Some one has said, that the successful establishment of a newspaper concerns—the placing of it upon a sure foundation, so that it will abide the mutations of opinions, and the changes that take place in local conditions, require ability and power of more than ordinary character. Whoever does this gives proof of being a man of intellectual power, and the proof is enduring. It is testimony to the point of persistency of purpose, unflinching industry, and ability to rise above the perplexities and obstacles which the projector of a newspaper establishment must encounter before he attains a firm footing. Our friend leaves the Whig securely established.—From its days of weakness he has brought it up to its days of strength. It will take ability, industry and firmness to continue it in its present position, but there need be none of those feelings of anxiety about the future which must, and do weigh so heavily upon all who commence new newspaper enterprises. The Whig & Courier now maintains a position of power and influence. It has attained it by the long and repeated efforts, mental and physical, of our friend. It has grown with the growth and strengthened with the strength of the fair city in which it is published. And how much of the prosperity of that place has been promoted by the steady advocacy of its interests by the Whig & Courier! It is no unmeaning compliment, but a heartfelt obligation which we owe to truth, when we say that the Whig & Courier, under the editorial management of Mr. Sayward, has been ably conducted, and it is no common place remark we make when we say that we part company with regret. For 15 years, we have had our notions of the rules which should guide the conductor of a public press, strengthened and confirmed, and the responsibility which attaches to editorial position, enforced by the weekly visits of the paper which he has conducted. The editorial fraternity of the State will share with us in the expression of these feelings, and will join with us in hoping that prosperity and peace may attend him throughout his future life.

Mr. Wheeler, the gentleman who has assumed the editorial charge of the Courier, has had charge of the Kennebec Journal for the three or four past years, and has made a very satisfactory paper. He is industrious and capable, and stepping as he

DESIGNS ON CUBA.

Mr. Silldell, Senator from Louisiana, moved a few days since in the U. S. Senate a resolve authorizing the President in his discretion to suspend our neutrality laws, which forbid filibustering, and the fitting out of piratical expeditions against nations with which we are at peace. The resolve was referred to the committee on foreign relations. The occasion which prompted this Hon. Senator to introduce this resolve is the fact that the Spanish Government is modifying some of its harsh laws respecting slavery, and preparing the way for gradual abolition. He made a long speech when the resolution was under consideration, indignantly censuring Spain for showing any disposition to extend the sentiment of freedom. He says:

"It is the design of the Captain General of Cuba, acting under instructions from Madrid, to bring about the emancipation of the negroes. To cap the climax of usurpation and oppression, an order has been issued allowing all slaves to hire their time at eight dollars per month. The Spanish law has always favored the emancipation of the slave, and to enable him to acquire his liberty, a tariff has been placed on his labor according to his convertible value or the price paid for him. This was ten cents per day on every one hundred dollars' value. Thus: a slave worth five hundred dollars, by paying his master fifty cents per day, or fifteen dollars per month, could apply the balance of his earnings to the accumulation of a fund for the purchase of his liberty."

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does into a position of influence, and one made strong by the ability and persistency of his predecessor, has it in his power to be eminently successful.

CHEAP OCEAN POSTAGE.

It is one of the marks of the present age of improvements, that as the people of nations become more enlightened, their governments are everywhere relaxing their former unjust and oppressive regulations.—Our own country, boasting of its intelligence and freedom, ought to be ever the foremost in the liberalizing reforms. It is however to be noticed that with all our clamor at the Aristocracy of Great Britain, we have of late suffered the government of that country to take the lead of us in some of the most philanthropic improvements.—A striking instance of this was the reduction of letter postage, on land, to one penny to all distances,—a measure of vastly more importance than is usually imagined, in its effects on the intercourse, education, and friendly feelings of the people. Our government followed this example, and although we did not come down to the true, most economical standard of the British rate, and have not yet had the justice to abolish the abuse of the franking system—the sole cause of unproductiveness—still the advantage felt by our citizens is such that none would be willing to return to the former rates. The British Parliament is now about to enact a similar reduction of postage on the ocean, where it is equally demanded by every consideration of justice and policy; and as it is even of more importance to us, from our extensive commerce and numerous citizens of foreign emigration, it is hoped that Congress will act in concert with Great Britain in this beneficial movement.

A VETO.

The President of the United States has vetoed the Bill appropriating 10,000,000 acres of the Public Lands, or their proceeds, to the use of the indigent, insane, the blind, the deaf, and the dumb. The bill, commonly called Mr. Dix's bill. The President who has just been negotiating to pay Santa Anna \$10,000,000 for a strip of Mexican territory, and is ready to draw up the Treasury to any amount to obtain the "Queen of the Antilles," finds that his notions of the powers granted by the constitution are altogether too strait laced to allow him to sanction a bill to aid the States in taking care of that class of unfortunate fellow beings who were to be benefited by this bill. It is singular what a little strait lacedness in construing the constitution can do. Any worthy object may be defeated, but let it be the stealing of territory, or some party foray upon the Treasury be proposed by a bill, all constitutional scruples vanish at once "into thin air." It is not unconstitutional to grant away half the land for the benefit of the new States, or to appropriate money out of the Treasury to pay for chattel hunting, but let anything be suggested which will be of universal benefit and benevolence, democratic Presidents, who will gulph up the Treasury box and its entire contents at once to pay for territory to extend the area of slavery, cannot find any constitutional power for the exercise of any legislative benevolence.

SILVER AND SILVER PLATED WARE. Last fall, when visiting the Crystal Palace in New York, our attention was directed to some beautiful specimens of Silver and Silver plated ware, of American manufacture, which, for beauty of design and excellence of work, was not equalled by anything of the kind of English, French or German manufacture.—A case of this ware from the establishment of Rogers & Brothers, Hartford, Conn., may be seen at the extensive Hardware and Jewelry Establishment of Cleaves & Kimball, and any one who wishes to see what the American Artists can do in the way of making Cake Baskets, Caster Stands, Cutlery, &c., will be richly repaid by an inspection of its contents. We presume that our friends, Messrs Cleaves & Kimball, would make no objection if they were asked to answer orders for such work as the case contains.

CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES. There was quite a gathering of leading democratic politicians here the early part of the week. Esq. Drew of Waterboro, Esq. Moore of Limerick and others. We have not learned the object of the meeting but it is suggested that the perturbed state of the party in the county, and elsewhere in the state was the occasion of the meeting. We understand that the number of leading democrats who have an eye to Washington is large, and the list is increasing daily. Esq. Drew it was said some time ago had his corns all laid for the nomination, but we understand that Esq. Leland contests the palm and these in their time are finding rivals in the persons of Dr. Sweet and Jos. Titcomb Esq. We understand that our neighbor of the Democrat also volunteers his name as a candidate. The fact of there being a Cumberland past of the District seems to be forgotten.

SOME explanation of the manner in which the Nebraska Bill was brought before the House on Monday, seems to be necessary to understand why it is again properly before the House for consideration. It will be recollected that it was referred, when received from the Senate, to the committee of the whole, and accordingly was placed at the foot of the calendar, where it was supposed it could not be reached this session. On the same calendar there was another bill, the one reported by the House committee on territories, being substantially the same as that passed at the last session of Congress which was entirely unobjectionable. When Mr. Richardson got the floor, he moved that the bills before this, seventeen in all, should be laid aside, and then reaching these House bills, he moved to take them up, and on carrying the motion, moved to amend by substituting the Senate bill with one material exception, viz: the leaving out the Clayton proviso. The bill is now, or was yesterday, regularly before the committee, and if it has not already

been disposed of, will be regularly in order until it is passed or rejected. The friends of the bill, it was understood, were to make a strong effort to press it through, yesterday.

ANOTHER GORE. The Farmer and Mechanic, which has been published for a year past at Lewiston, has ceased to exist. It has been a very well conducted paper, but the probability is that it did not afford the proprietors adequate remuneration for their labors. The subscription list has been transferred to Col. Waldron of the Lewiston Journal.

DIED. In Saco, 11th inst., COTTON BRADLEY, Esq., aged 63 years. Mr. Bradley was an old, influential and respected citizen of Saco, and enjoyed to a great degree the esteem and confidence of his fellow citizens. He represented the Town several years in the State Legislature, and for many years has been one of the Selectmen of the Town. His funeral will take place on Saturday, at 2 P. M., from his residence, on North Street.

CALIFORNIA NEWS.

FROM MEXICO.—BLOCKADE OF ACAPULCO. Arrival of the Star of the West and George Law with \$2,000,000 in specie.

The steamship Star of the West, from San Juan, and the George Law, from Aspinwall, arrived at New York, shortly after midnight of Monday. The former brings 618 passengers, and \$1,116,947 in specie, on freight, while the George Law was the bearer 584 passengers, and \$847,573 in treasure.

The news from California is of but little importance. Accounts from the mines were encouraging, while business continues to improve, and the general opinion is that the State was never in a more prosperous condition. Sufficient breadstuffs will be raised this season to supply the entire State. The fugitive slave law has passed the Senate by a very large majority; it had been previously passed in the Assembly. A lump of pure gold, weighing 27 lbs., has been found at Yankee Hill, near Columbus.

Walker and his band have evacuated Lower California, and no one knows where, but perhaps to Texas. They drove off 300 or 400 head of cattle, belonging to the rancheros of Lower California.

BLOCKADE OF ACAPULCO. Panama, April 20. The news from Mexico is of a highly interesting nature. Santa Anna has blockaded Acapulco, and the government troops and those of the revolutionary party are busily engaged fighting.

We are indebted to Messrs. Wells, Fargo & Co's messenger, for the following:—The day before we arrived at Acapulco, a battle was fought, in which several persons were killed, wounded and taken prisoners, Santa Anna getting the worst of it. He has about 3000 men, and Gen. Alvarez about the same number. Every family had left the town, and taken up their abode on the opposite side of the Bay. The agent of the Nicaragua Company says that Alvarez had surrounded Santa Anna, and intended starving him out, and also that the largest Mexican man-of-war is the old Caroline, of filibustering notoriety.

THE WARD AFFAIR.

The unexpected result of the recent Ward trial in Kentucky, in which Matthew F. Ward was acquitted on the charge of murdering Prof. Butler, has created a profound sensation throughout the country. That twelve jurors could have been empaneled anywhere in the United States, who could have returned such a verdict, in view of the plainly proved facts is in deed most surprising. Ward was undoubtedly the aggressor, and from beginning to end, was doubtless wholly in the wrong, and his social position, wealth, or able counsel, should not have saved him from the extreme penalty of the law.

The excitement in Louisville and throughout Kentucky at this shoving aside of justice, is represented to be most intense. The whole Ward family have been obliged to leave their home to escape the fury of the populace. The press is almost unanimous in condemning the verdict. The jurymen are burnt in effigy, denounced in resolutions at public gatherings, and held up to public execration in the columns of newspapers. The counsel for Ward have suffered much in popularity—even the hitherto universally respected and highly esteemed Crittenden finds it hard to stem the torrent of public indignation, for his volunteer services in this affair. Resolutions have been passed in several places, requesting him to resign his seat in the U. S. Senate.

Mat. Ward has been acquitted by the jury, but the stain of blood is upon his hands, and cannot be washed off. The mark of Cain is upon him, and a voice shall always pursue him, saying, "Where is thy brother?" He has escaped the gall, but his punishment is great though—a punishment from which gold can never give reprieve.—Concord Reporter.

THE WARD TRIAL. There has been much misrepresentation of the manner in which Mr. Crittenden came into this trial. He did not volunteer; he was applied to three times and declined. He then yielded to the prayers and the tears of women who had refused to the entreaties of men and to every other argument. How deeply the family of the murderer must have been affected, no one needs to be told. The father of Ward was the friend of Mr. Crittenden, so was the mother. They saw their son about to suffer an ignominious death. Horrified at the crime, they could not eat off the criminal, or cease to love the wretched man who had deprived himself of all human sympathy, save that which nature has planted so deep in the human heart that nothing can eradicate it. Moved by their continued appeals, in which, doubtless, the ladies of his own family joined, and with characteristic disregard of his personal injury to himself, Mr. Crittenden, at last consented to appear for the defence, but he refused to take a fee, and this was all the volunteering that there was. Providence Journal.

STRYCHNINE. The Columbus (Ohio) Democrat says that distillers employ strychnine in the manufacture of whiskey. It is a potent discovery that this deadly drug increases the yield of whiskey per bushel of corn.—In some places the poison is used to such an extent that dogs die in great numbers from drinking the still alcohol. And we may add that this deadly poison is used in other liquors besides whiskey. A few months ago some pure cognac brandy was analyzed in Washington, and was found to contain strychnine.

SPERMINATION OF THE TURK. English cotton shirts, on which the coonies contents of the Koran are roughly printed in blue, are now selling in the Turkish empire. They are eagerly bought up at tenfold their value, as the Turkish soldiers attach to those talismans extracts the gift of making the wearer invulnerable in battle.

